

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02518 181001Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----040040 181140Z /23

P R 180653Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5451
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2518

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, MO, LE, XF
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN INTEREST IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN, MOHAMED AL GHARBI, WHO IS ALSO ACCREDITED IN BEIRUT, TOLD US MARCH 16 OF SOME "IDEAS" CENTERING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING MOROCCAN FORCES FOR ANY UN PEACE FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

2. AL GHARBI WILL VISIT BEIRUT MARCH 17-18 TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH CAMILLE CHAMOUN, PIERRE GEMAYEL AND OTHERS, ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERS WITH WHOM HE SAYS HE MAINTAINS CLOSE CONTACT. HIS IDEA IS THAT MOROCCAN FORCES MIGHT BE DEPLOYED IN SOUTH LEBANON IN CONNECTION WITH ANY UN MOVE TO PROVIDE A BUFFER BEHIND WHICH ISRAELIS CAN WITHDRAW.

3. HE TOLD ME THAT MOROCCO'S CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS IN THE PAST CONVINCED HIM THAT IDEA WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN TEL AVIV. HE SAID THAT MOROCCO, IN SPITE OF ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PLO, IS ALSO LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02518 181001Z POSS DUPE

TO "PAY BACK SYRIA" FOR ITS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH ALGERIA AND CONSEQUENTLY ITS ATTITUDE IN SUPPORT OF THE POLISARIO FRONT IN SPITE OF ALL THE MILITARY AID WHICH MOROCCO PROVIDED TO SYRIA IN THE 1973 WAR.

4. AL GHARBI SAYS THAT AT THE MOMENT THE IDEA IS ONE WHICH HE IS PURSUING IN ORDER TO SUGGEST TO HIS GOVERNMENT. WE

UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS FORMERLY A PALACE OFFICIAL IN RABAT
AND THAT THE MIGHT HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN GETTING AN IDEA
LIKE THIS SOLD THERE.
PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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